

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.

ETSB BOARD ROOM

340, SAINT-JEAN-BOSCO

MAGOG, QC. J1X 1K9

MINUTES

Enhanced Literacy and Numeracy – Dropout Prevention – Physical and Mental Health

COMMISSIONERS		PARENT COMMISSIONERS	
Gordon Barnett	Z	Marc Mercure	Z
Claire Beaubien	Z	Helene Turgeon	Z
Shawn Jersey	A	Daniel Zigby, Vice-Chair	Z
Richard Gagnon	Z	Eliza McKnight	Z
Gary Holliday	Z	DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)	
Joy Humenuik	Z	Secretary General – Éric Campbell	P
Mary-Ellen Kirby	Z	Assistant Director General – Kandy Mackey	Z
Frank MacGregor	A	Director General and Director of Continuing Education – Michel Soucy	P
Alice McCrory	Z	Director of Human Resources – Jeffrey Pauw	Z
Jonathan Murray	Z	Director of Financial Services – Sophie Leduc	Z
Michael Murray, Chair	Z	Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Eva Lettner	Z
Tina Pezzi-Bilodeau	Z	Director of Complementary Services – Emmanuelle Gaudet	A
		Director of Material Resources – Éric Plante	Z

ZOOM (Z) – MEMBERS PRESENT (P) – MEMBERS ABSENT (A)

OBSERVERS

Holly Bailey, Communications Consultant

PUBLIC

Megan Seline, President of the Appalachian Teachers' Association (ATA)

Matthew McCully, The Record

Renalee Gore, Knowlton Academy principal

Jennifer Palik, Asbestos-Danville-Shipton Elementary principal

Timothy Croteau, Parkview Elementary teacher

David Proulx, Waterloo Elementary parent

Ashley Lawrence, Waterloo Elementary parent

Peggy McCourt, Alexander Galt Regional High School principal

Lorrie Wheeler, Waterloo Elementary staff/HSA

Wanda Cox, Townships Regional Union of Support Staff (TRUSS)

Barbra Plouffe, Parkview Elementary principal

James Lemaître, Sunnyside Elementary principal

Adriana Lyons, Waterloo Elementary principal

Charline Labonté, Waterloo Elementary parent

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. QUORUM AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon to adopt the Agenda of May 24, 2022 as as modified with the following correction:

7.2 Confirmation of Schools and Centres Administrative Structure – **TABLED**.

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 26, 2022

Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-67

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on April 26, 2022

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of April 26, 2022 has been given to each Commissioner at least 6 hours before the opening of the meeting, the Secretary General is excused from reading the Minutes.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Barnett to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on April 26, 2022, as modified:

Question period – page 3 – last paragraph: *charges* should have read **changes**.

Carried unanimously

4. QUESTION PERIOD

- D. Proulx: In the resolution regarding the Code of Ethics for all employees, it was written that the policy was accepted by all committees enumerated, which is not the case. During the consultation process, suggestions have been sent to the School Board following a Central Parents' Committee (CPC) meeting, meaning that the policy was not accepted as is.
- M. Murray: When you were consulted, it was part of a consultation process. This does not mean that all suggestions will be retained. There was no indication in the report from the parents' committee that it was up for a vote, it was for consideration only. There is also no resolution stating that it was unacceptable.
- D. Proulx: I understand what a consultation process is. Do I understand that for the ETSB, when it says that a policy is accepted by all, does that mean that whatever suggestions are sent in, do you consider it as being accepted?
- M. Murray: Yes, it is.
- D. Zigby: I'm not sure about Mr. Proulx's comment regarding the recommendation that was brought forward through the consultation process. It was noted that parents had made a note.
- M. McCully: Bill 96 was adopted today. Will there be any comments from the ETSB about a possible challenge to Bill 96? Maybe it will be addressed later on in the meeting?
- M. Murray: It is surely too soon to make a comment on today's adoption and no, this topic will not be addressed later in the meeting.
- M. Seline: Did the Commissioners attend the demonstration against Bill 96 organized in Montreal?
- M. Murray: I do not know. There was one organized by the Townshippers' Association in Cowansville that some of us attended to which I urged Commissioners to attend. There was supposed to have been one organized in Sherbrooke, but it did not happen.
- M. Seline: To whom a teacher should send an incident report regarding the Director General?
- M. Murray: Incident reports should be sent to the Council of Commissioners care of the Secretary General.
- E. Campbell: Can you specify your question? Are we talking about an incident report or a complaint?
- M. Seline: We are talking about an incident report.
- E. Campbell: The Secretary General department does not deal with employee complaints nor employee incident reports. Any employee complaints or employee incident reports must be referred to the Human Resources department.

- D. Proulx: Regarding the incident at WES where a teacher flipped a desk, you said that parents were contacted. I have written proof that this is not the case. There was no follow-up.
- M. Murray: You acknowledge that parents were contacted. Re-read your text. The communication was made.
- K. Mackey: A second communication was sent the following day (in April) via Class Dojo.
- M. Seline: Is the School Board considering the removal of Ms. A. Lyons from her role as principal at Waterloo Elementary School (WES)?
- M. Murray: We will not answer this question in a public question meeting. All matters of Human Resources are confidential.
- M. Seline: To whom should a complaint regarding a principal go to? If teachers have concerns that the complaints have not been resolved nor addressed appropriately, what should they do?
- M. Murray: There is a clear process presented on the ETSB Website if the complaint comes from a student or from a student's parent. The complaint should be addressed to the principal of the school first and foremost. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the principal's solution, the complainant may then call the School Board to reach the Secretary General's office in order to make an official complaint. If the complainant is still dissatisfied with the solutions presented, the next step would be to contact the Student Ombudsman. However, if it is in regards to a Human Resources issue, then it would go to HR.
- D. Proulx: At the last meeting, you referred to a satisfactory climate at WES. I have asked if a survey has been sent to parents in order to measure the level of satisfaction. Are you aware that a parent at WES compiled a list of 24 names of parents that would like to transfer their child to Parkview Elementary? Is this considered a minority?
- M. Murray: That is decidedly a minority. This is destructive and not constructive. I suggest people invest their energy and their efforts in a positive and constructive way.

5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman M. Murray presented the May 24, 2022 Recognition of Excellence and invited the following Commissioners to read the texts:

This month the Council of Commissioners and Senior Administrators of the Eastern Townships School Board would like to signal the following:

Eastern Townships School Board students bring home the Lieutenant Governor Award!



Commissioner R. Gagnon: Every year, a select number of Quebec students are singled out for excellence! This year was no exception, as Quebec's Lieutenant Governor M. J. Michel Doyon honoured two of our students from the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) with medals – Katherine McLellan from Alexander Galt Regional High School along with Carl Coddington from Richmond Regional High School! Both recipients were nominated based on their determination and involvement in school life, and for having a positive influence in their community. Please join us in congratulating these students who are setting a fine example!

Meet the honourees:

Commissioner G. Barnett: Katherine McLellan is a quiet leader, someone who takes continual pride in herself and in all facets of life, both socially and academically at Alexander Galt Regional High School. Katherine has overcome severe challenges and through her determination and hard work she has achieved great things in and out of school. Math is Katherine's strong suit, and she is one of the hardest working and most positive students who is earning top marks. Katherine McLellan is a privilege to teach and a deserving recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's medal.

Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau: Carl Coddington was chosen by RRHS teachers and staff as this year's recipient of the Lieutenant Governor Award based on his strong work ethic, creativity, dedication and enthusiasm. Carl is a real leader both inside and outside of the classroom, who is motivated, organized and always ready to lend a helping hand to both students and teachers alike. RRHS has been very lucky to have Carl as part of its community.

We congratulate both of these exemplary students and salute them on this achievement!



A single dream. A world of hope.®

Commissioner G. Barnett: We wish to wrap up this year's Terry Fox Run with a final message delivered to the ETSB from The Terry Fox Foundation. Their motto in 2021 was "Try like Terry" and did our schools and centres represent! The Foundation congratulates the ETSB community for taking part, spreading awareness and for collectively raising a total of \$41,571.85 !!!!! Congratulations to all on this collective achievement!

The ETSB sends support to UKRAINE

Commissioner M. E. Kirby: The ETSB community rallied together in support of the Ukraine during these times of conflict and struggle. Schools and centres participated at will and in their own way to demonstrate their care and concern. Below is a collage of various activities that took place...



GALT art auction raises over \$2000 for the Ukraine



Collage by Gr 6 class @ ADS



Students & staff from North Hately School march in support raising \$1090



Ayers' Cliff Elementary collects supplies for the Ukraine & partners with Bishop's University to ship them over!



Knowlton Academy fundraises for Unicef in support of the Ukraine



École de Sutton School mobilizes the community for donations



Massey Vanier students host a pancake lunch raising \$370



LVTC's homage to Ukrainians

6. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

7. NEW BUSINESS

The Secretary General, E. Campbell presented the following resolutions:

7.1 **Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-68** **Schedule of Council of Commissioners meetings – 2022-2023**

August 23, 2022
September 27, 2022
October 25, 2022
November 22, 2022
January 24, 2023
February 21, 2023
March 28, 2023
April 25, 2023
May 23, 2023
June 27, 2023

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner C. Beaubien to adopt the Schedule of Council of Commissioners meetings for 2022-2023.

Carried unanimously

7.2 **Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-XX** **Confirmation of the Schools and Centres Administrative Structure – 2022-2023**

WHEREAS section 134 of the Regulation respecting *Certain Conditions of Employment of Senior Staff of School Boards and of the Comité de Gestion de la Taxe Scolaire de l'Île de Montréal* states that the School Board must confirm the Schools and Centres Administrative Structure as it is amended;

WHEREAS following the evaluation of each position, no changes were done;

WHEREAS the Commissioners have reviewed the proposed Administrative Structure for the Schools and Centres, during the Commissioners Executive meeting on May 24, 2022;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships Association of Administrators (ETAA) has been duly consulted on the 2022-2023 structure;

WHEREAS this administrative structure is to take effect on July 1st 2022, unless otherwise specified;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner _____ that the Council of Commissioners approve the Schools and Centres Administrative Structure for the 2022-2023 school year, effective July 1st 2022.

TABLED

The Director General, M. Soucy presented the following resolution:

7.3 Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-69

Confirmation of the Head Office Administrative Structure – 2022-2023

WHEREAS section 134 of the Regulation respecting *Certain Conditions of Employment of Senior Staff of School Boards* and of the *Comité de Gestion de la Taxe Scolaire de l'Île de Montréal* states that the School Board must confirm the Head Office Administrative Structure, as it has been amended;

WHEREAS the Commissioners have reviewed the proposed Administrative Structure for the Head Office for the 2022-2023 school year during the Commissioners Executive meeting on May 24, 2022;

WHEREAS the recommendation to create the position of "Personnel Management Consultant" in the Human Resources Department is to be added to the existing structure;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships Association of Administrators (ETAA) has been consulted on the structure;

WHEREAS this administrative structure is to take effect July 1st 2022, unless otherwise specified;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner C. Beaubien that the Council of Commissioners approve the Head Office Administrative Structure for the 2022-2023 school year, effective July 1st 2022.

Carried unanimously

The Secretary General, E. Campbell presented the following resolutions:

7.4 Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-70

2022-2023 Insurance Renewal Contract

WHEREAS articles 178 and 270 of the Education Act stipulate that a School Board may take out liability insurance, professional insurance and property insurance;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board's (ETSB) current insurance plan comes to term on June 30, 2022;

WHEREAS since 2012-2013, the Council of Commissioners has authorized the participation of the ETSB in the *Regroupement des commissions scolaires et des centres de services scolaires de la Montérégie* and in the *Estrie en matières d'assurances*;

WHEREAS the consolidated purchasing experience has been financially advantageous for the ETSB;

WHEREAS following a call for tenders published on April 1st to June 3rd 2021, it was moved by resolution ETSB 21-06-111 on June 22, 2021 to accept the offer from *BFL Canada* and from *La Capitale* (now *Beneva*) for the renewal of the coverage liability insurance, professional insurance and property insurance for a 5 year contract renewable annually;

WHEREAS the 2022-2023 school year is the second year of the contract;

WHEREAS article 42.0.2 from the *Règlement sur les contrats de services des organismes publics* provides the possibility of renewal options for this type of service contract;

WHEREAS *BFL Canada* and *Beneva* (previously named *La Capitale*) respectively bid on specific guarantees to cover all the proposed guarantees by the *Regroupement des commissions scolaires et des centres de services scolaires de la Montérégie* and in the *Estrie en matières d'assurances* for 2022-2023;

WHEREAS the consultant firm *Gestion Turcot & Associés Inc.* has recommended the joint offer between *BFL Canada* and *Beneva*;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon to accept the offer from *BFL Canada* and from *Beneva* (previously named *La Capitale*) for the renewal of the coverage liability insurance, professional insurance and property insurance for the 2022-2023 school year.

Carried unanimously

The Director General, M. Soucy presented the following resolution:

7.5 Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-71
Contracts to Public Bodies – Annual Rendering of Accounts

WHEREAS on December 7, 2012, the National Assembly adopted Bill 1 – *Integrity in Public Contracts Act*;

WHEREAS in accordance with this law, the Treasury Board decreed the *Directive concernant la reddition de comptes en gestion contractuelle des organismes publics* (hereinafter referred to as the « Directive »), which came into force on April 1, 2013 and applies particularly to school boards;

WHEREAS the Directive outlines all cases of rendering of accounts and standardizes the content and the type of information to be transmitted to the Secretariat of the Treasury Board;

WHEREAS the requirements provided under this directive are from the *Loi sur les contrats des organismes publics (LCOP)*, which aims to promote the rendering of accounts based on the accountability of chief executive officers of public bodies and on the appropriate use of public funds;

WHEREAS according to the requirements outlined in the Directive, the School Board is required to render an account of its contractual activities during the period from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022;

WHEREAS the Directive stipulates that, the chief executive officer of the public body must attest, on an annual basis, to the reliability of the data and controls related to contracts by using the form presented at the Audit Advisory Committee on May 17, 2022;

WHEREAS at Eastern Townships School Board, the duties of the executive officer of the public body for which an account must be rendered rest with the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners must render an account for the authorizations it gave during the period from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022;

WHEREAS all contracting activities have been performed by the appropriate school board administrators and respecting the *LCOP* to the best of their judgment and abilities within the resources available;

IT IS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik, seconded by Commissioner R. Gagnon that Eastern Townships School Board: **ADOPT** the declaration of the executive officer of the public body attesting to the reliability of the data and management controls as appended to this resolution (*Annexe 3: Déclaration du dirigeant de l'organisme 2021 – 2022*), in accordance with the template proposed by the Secretariat of the Treasury Board:

1. This declaration is made by the executive officer of the public body in a context where all contracting activities have been performed by the appropriate administrators while respecting the *LCOP* to the best of their judgment and abilities and within the limits of the resources available.”
2. **AUTHORIZE** the Chairman of the School Board to sign the declaration of the executive officer of the public body (appendix 3) and any other document required to respect the requirements of the rendering of accounts as provided for in the Directive;
3. **TRANSMIT**, no later than June 30, 2022 all the required documents to the Secretariat of the Treasury Board so as to respect the requirement to render account as stipulated in the Directive.

Carried unanimously

8. REPORTS

8.1 Director General's report

The Director General, M. Soucy had nothing new to report.

8.2 Chair's report

The Chair of the Commissioners' Council, M. Murray, reported the following:

At our last public meeting, my report addressed my concern over the erosion of common courtesy, civility and decorum that I believe has accelerated in recent years with the widespread intrusion of social media everywhere in society. Later in the same meeting, we were treated to a stunning example of the problem that concerns me when a visitor to the meeting, a member of the public, addressed personal remarks at me in most uncivil terms. I deplore such behavior for which there can be no justification. I have asked our Secretary General, Eric Campbell, to make it clear that such lack of courtesy and civility will not be tolerated. It only remains to add that there has been neither apology nor any indication of remorse from the perpetrator. If we cannot maintain a level of decorum and mutual respect, despite holding differing opinions, if we cannot argue our cases for or against issues calmly and rationally, without insults or unfounded accusations of bad faith, it shows that our social fabric is being ruptured. I am not your enemy

nor are any of the Commissioners and Administrators who work at ETSB, yet we are regularly accused of bad faith, lying and misdirecting. Why such accusations are hurled so freely at individuals and groups devoted to the welfare of students doing their best in difficult circumstances is incomprehensible. Allow me once again to implore all those whose passions are aroused to channel that energy positively, working with rather than against those of us whose responsibility is to better serve our students.

I want to thank members of the Council of Commissioners who gave up a precious Saturday to attend our Symposium on May 7. It was the first of a two-part program to address important questions we need to answer as we strive to improve educational outcomes for our students. Our goal is always to find ways to improve what we provide both academically and culturally. It is an ongoing effort. Next weekend, our QESBA association is offering online professional development to further equip us. Next October, we will resume with the same animators to examine our priorities and focus on the most effective measures we can take in order to move forward.

I was pleased and proud of the students at Massey-Vanier High School in Cowansville who responded to the call to oppose Bill 96. The students spontaneously organized within a very short time to produce and sign a petition and over 120 individual letters were presented to Brome-Missisquoi Member of the National Assembly, Isabelle Charest. A rally was held at the school to better inform the public of the many ways that this Bill is unsatisfactory. In particular, it threatens the quality of health and social services delivered to citizens in their most vulnerable situations by threatening doctors, nurses and other caregivers with fines and penalties for speaking in the first language of the patient if it happens not to be French. The Bill further deprives all citizens of Quebec of basic civil rights by allowing government employees to search and seize private information and documentation without a warrant, and to use such information to prosecute. This huge intrusion into the right of privacy applies to individuals, companies and institutions. The Bill also modifies the education curriculum for adult Quebecers by requiring those attending English CEGEPS to take core courses in French or alternatively to use precious optional course slots to take additional language courses. There are many other flagrant violations of civil rights contained in its more than 100 pages. Considering the public statements of certain of our elected officials, it is patently clear that at least some who will vote in favor of its adoption have never read it. I learned yesterday that further demonstrations are being planned despite the probability that the Bill will be adopted early this week and I encourage everyone to attend if possible. The struggle to correct this appalling collection of violations of our civil rights is just beginning.

On a happier note, New Horizons Adult Education Centre held its graduation ceremonies this month. I find it particularly inspiring to meet the students and to hear their stories of obstacles overcome, of challenges met and repeatedly, of the critical importance of **Perseverance**. Some students who celebrated this year are immigrants, struggling in a culture and language alien to them to obtain the education which serves as a passport to better opportunities. Others are young adults for whom conventional schools were a poor fit and, for many, a negative experience, yet they are determined to obtain their certification. Even more significant for me are the stories of men and women, some well into middle age, who have chosen to improve their educational standing years, and even decades after leaving high school. Those of us who come together to recognize and celebrate their successes cannot help but be humbled by their stories. I want to particularly applaud the personnel in the adult sector who are so successful at adapting programs and processes to fit so many different learning styles and

individual particularities. I am looking forward to a number of upcoming graduation galas in our secondary and post-secondary establishments. I encourage all Commissioners to take the time to attend and listen to the students telling us how much they appreciate their experiences with ETSB.

We are in the final stretch of our educational year. It has been a difficult one and there are legitimate concerns over the interruptions and distractions that may have hampered learning. However, I am confident that our students have not suffered irreparably despite all the challenges. Earlier generations of Canadians and Quebecers endured depressions and the Holocaust, fought wars, lived in fear of Armageddon, survived apprehended insurrection and still forged a better future for those of us who follow. Our youth will do the same.

9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

9.1 Executive Committee

The Chair of the Executive Committee, Commissioner M. Murray explained that the topics discussed at tonight's Executive meeting are part of tonight's Council meeting agenda.

9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner R. Gagnon mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for this upcoming Tuesday, May 31, 2022.

9.3 Audit Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee, Commissioner J. Humenuik presented the following resolution:

9.3.1 Finance:

9.3.1.1 Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-72

Policy for the Procurement and Management of Contracts Policies and Procedures

WHEREAS the School Board has developed a *Policy for the Procurement and Management of Contracts Policies and Procedures*;

WHEREAS the *Policy for the Procurement and Management of Contracts Policies and Procedures* will replace the Purchasing Policy;

WHEREAS the *Policy for the Procurement and Management of Contracts Policies and Procedures* was sent for consultation to the Parents' Committee, the Special Education Committee, the Eastern Townships Association of Administrators, the Appalachian Teachers' Association, the Syndicat des Professionnelles et Professionnels de l'Éducation de l'Estrie and the Townships Regional Union of Support Staff;

WHEREAS all received comments have been taken into consideration;

WHEREAS the Director's Committee and the Management Committee accepted the final version of the *Policy for the Procurement and Management of Contracts Policies and Procedures*;

WHEREAS the final version of the *Policy for the Procurement and Management of Contracts Policies and Procedures* was presented to the Audit Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS the Audit Advisory Committee recommends its adoption to the Council of Commissioners;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that the *Policy for the Procurement and Management of Contracts Policies and Procedures* be adopted.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2 Material Resources:

9.3.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-73

Alexander Galt Regional High School – Catwalks Security Guardrails

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$325,378 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-2021 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS two (2) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS one (1) bid was received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$159,252 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Construction Labrie-Merlos Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the company *Construction Labrie-Merlos Inc.* is the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$223,702, including taxes and professional fees;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Barnett to proceed with the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.2 Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-74**Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) Mandate – Air filters for ventilation ducts**

WHEREAS the *Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG)* has been created on September 1st 2020;

WHEREAS the CAG has for mission to acquire quality goods and services, at the right time, at the right price to the benefit of public organizations;

WHEREAS public organizations will have to acquire from the CAG exclusively unless an exception is accepted from them;

WHEREAS the CAG has started a new call for tender for the acquisition of air filters for ventilation ducts;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board finds it advantageous to benefit from this mandate;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. Mercure to proceed in joining the CAG for the mandate stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.3 Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-75**Farnham Elementary School – Renovation of Foundations and Envelope and Renovation of Perimeter Drainage and Insulation**

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$1,673,374 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-2021 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS three (3) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS three (3) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$3,789,615 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Construction GCP Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *ADSP inc.* has recommended the company *Construction GCP Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$4,567,313, including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project, will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2013-14, MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2015-16, MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-22* programs;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik to proceed with the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.4 Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-76

New Horizons – Drainage, Repair and Renovation of Parking lot

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$418,343 for the project stated above, under the program *RDE – Résorption du déficit d'entretien 2019-20 Mesure: 50622*;

WHEREAS a company known today as *Les Entreprises Richard Brisson Inc.* was awarded a contract in the amount of \$550,410 including professional fees and taxes, for the project stated above;

WHEREAS during the project, some modifications for additional work needed to be done;

WHEREAS the amount of \$87,272 to pay for all modification orders, additional work and professional fees (including taxes), is required to finish the project;

WHEREAS the total amount for the contract including all modification orders, additional work and professional fees (including taxes), adds up to \$637,682;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-20* program;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner D. Zigby that the modification and/or additional work be awarded to *Les Entreprises Richard Brisson Inc.* in order to complete the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General and/or the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.5 Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-77

Sutton Elementary School – Replacement of Floors in common areas, Classrooms and Offices

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$185,930 for the project stated above, under the program *RDE – Résorption du déficit d'entretien 2019-20 Mesure: 50622*;

WHEREAS a company known today as *Comco Entrepreneur en Bâtiment* was awarded a contract in the amount of \$158,091 including professional fees and taxes, for the project stated above;

WHEREAS during the project some modifications for additional work needed to be done;

WHEREAS the amount of \$28,292 to pay for all modification orders, additional work and professional fees (including taxes), is required to finish the project;

WHEREAS the total amount for the contract including all modification orders, additional work, and professional fees (including taxes), adds up to \$186,383;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project, will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-20* program;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner R. Gagnon that the modification and/or additional work be awarded in order to complete the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General and/or the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.6 Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-78
Waterloo Elementary School – Emergency Repair (Flood)

WHEREAS the *Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB)* approved a budget of \$250,000 for the project stated above, where monies were planned to be taken under the *RTB – Réfection et Transformation des Bâtiments 2021-22*;

WHEREAS during the project, some modifications for additional work needed to be done;

WHEREAS the amount of \$350,000 to pay for all modification orders, additional work and professional fees (including taxes), is required to finish the project;

WHEREAS the total amount for the budget including all modification orders, additional work and professional fees (including taxes), adds up to \$600,000;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project will be taken from *RTB – Réfection et Transformation des Bâtiments 2021-22*;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner A. McCrory that the modification and/or additional work be awarded in order to complete the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General and/or the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.7 Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-79**Waterloo Elementary School – Replacement of the water inlet and pavement**

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$348,000 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-2022 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS four (4) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS two (2) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid, in the amount of \$98,975 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Teltech Construction Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the company *Teltech Construction Inc.* is the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$113,797, including taxes;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Murray to proceed with the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

The date of the next Audit Advisory meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2022.

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby, mentioned that the date of the next ESAC meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2022.

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, M. Mercure mentioned that the date of the next meeting is **to be determined**.

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, C. Beaubien mentioned that the date of the meeting is **to be determined**.

9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, G. Holliday presented the following resolution:

9.7.1 Resolution No. ETSB 22-05-80
Correspondence to the Ministry of Education

WHEREAS the service contracts for school transportation expire on June 30, 2022;

WHEREAS the significant increase in fuel prices, particularly since January 2022, has reached an increase of approximately 100% compared to September 2021;

WHEREAS the removal of measure 50710 *Fuel Cost Compensation for Transporters*;

WHEREAS the added transitional measure does not cover the anticipated increase in costs;

WHEREAS the school bus drivers' working conditions will have to be improved so that the job of school bus drivers remains attractive, in a context of labor shortage;

WHEREAS the investments that transporters must make in order to gradually convert their fleet to electric vehicles;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education's (MEQ) indexation offer is 3.4%;

WHEREAS according to information from preliminary discussions with transporters, there is a significant gap between their requests and the MEQ indexing offer;

WHEREAS in the current context of negotiations, the Eastern Townships School Board will have no flexibility to negotiate with the transporters;

WHEREAS the size of our School Board's territory, a break in school transportation services would have a major impact on our clientele's school attendance;

In this context, the Council of Commissioners of the Eastern Townships School Board

CALLS ON the Ministry of Education (MEQ);

IS CONCERNED that they will not be able to honor the contracts submitted by the transporters;

IS ALSO CONCERNED about a shortage of qualified school bus drivers for the start of the school year 2022-2023;

ANTICIPATES a breakdown in school transportation services for the 2022-2023 academic year and consequently;

CALLS ON the Ministry of Education (MEQ) to review the 2022-2023 School Transportation Envelope so that students of the Eastern Townships School Board can benefit from a school transportation service at the start of the 2022-2023 school year without disruption.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon.

Carried unanimously

The date of the next Transportation Advisory meeting is **to be determined**.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The Special Education Advisory Committee Parent Commissioner, E. McKnight mentioned the topics discussed at the May 11, 2022 meeting:

- Recommendations to the DG – presented by M. Bouthillier;
- At-risk and coded students – presented by E. Gaudet.

The date of the next SEAC meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2022.

10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby, mentioned the that the date of the next Parents' Advisory meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2022.

11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee mentioned the following topics addressed at the May 12, 2022 meeting:

- Mental Health Survey;
- English Education Survey.

The next Student Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2022 with the Council of Commissioners at 7:30 p.m.

12. QESBA

An extensive and complete report was given by Mr. Murray last month. There is a QESBA Board meeting planned for this Friday for professional development sessions targeting the Commissioner's concerns. All ETSB administration has been invited as well as the Commissioners.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner G. Barnett:

New Horizons

- The New Horizons Gala occurred on Thursday, May 19, 2022. The theme was *Adventures are the best way to learn*, a most appropriate choice as they embark on their lifelong journey.
- The gym was decorated with flags of many nations reflecting the countries of origin for many of the students. In fact, students addressed the crowd briefly in about a dozen languages, such

as Urdu. The Master of Ceremony were students and they introduced the presenters of the many prizes to graduates and continuing students. Several students provided musical entertainment. One Afghani girl gave an interesting account of the journey to Canada and her goals here. This was a well organized and impressive event.

Commissioner C. Beaubien: 50 students and 3 teachers from Stanstead College will come and give a hand to Sunnyside School. They will work together to clean the flower beds in front, help prepare the community garden in the back and fix the mulch under the playground equipment.

Commissioner M. E. Kirby: Ms. Kirby enumerated different projects from the Eaton-Valley CLC. It was a successful year, COVID-19 notwithstanding:

- Super Book program;
- Book launch to celebrate with local authors;
- Arts inspire grant – Celtic theme;
- 70 Valentine’s packages mailed out to seniors;
- Sugar Shack meal.

Commissioner A. McCrory: Ms. McCrory attended the *House, House, House* presentation last Friday. It was very entertaining. The kids were so enthralled and excited. Great teamwork was taught and learnt.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

None.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

There has been no correspondence other than the letters sent by the transporters regarding negotiations.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

M. McCully

The Record, journalist:

Regarding the calendar meetings for next year, will the Council meetings be in person, virtual or hybrid?

M. Murray

ETSB Chairman:

The hybrid version will be maintained, which will be an option for both the public and the members of the Council.

C. Labonté

WES parent:

How can I get a school bus from Waterloo to Parkview where my kids will be transferred?

Mr. Murray

ETSB parent:

It is an ETSB policy to encourage parents' choice of where they send their kids. We privilege kids from the basin that the school serves. Kids outside of said basin, room permitting, are welcome to join the school. We do not provide transportation outside of the school's basin. It is not the same as Mansonville to Knowlton. We already have a bus going to Massey-Vanier High School.

M. Seline

ATA president:

I'm curious to know if any modifications are planned for the Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS) and the Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC) entrances in order to avoid circulating everywhere?

E. Plante

B & G Director:

We are working on a new project to have the new sign to better identify the entrances. The new sign has already been found for LVTC.

M. Seline

ATA president:

I'd like to know whether or not the Chairman or the Commissioners will meet with the teachers at WES? It is my understanding that they met at the early part of the school year, but has there been any other meetings since January 2022?

K. Mackey

ETSB Assistant-Director:

We have been in communication with teachers. I was actually there last week. There is open communication established and teachers can reach out as well.

17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner R. Gagnon at 8:40 p.m.

Éric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

EC/gm
05.24.2022